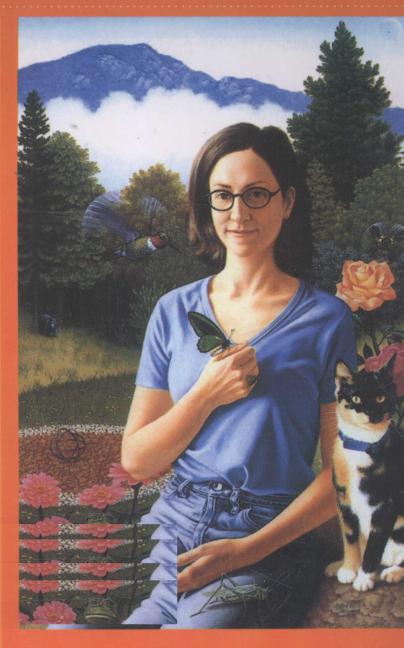
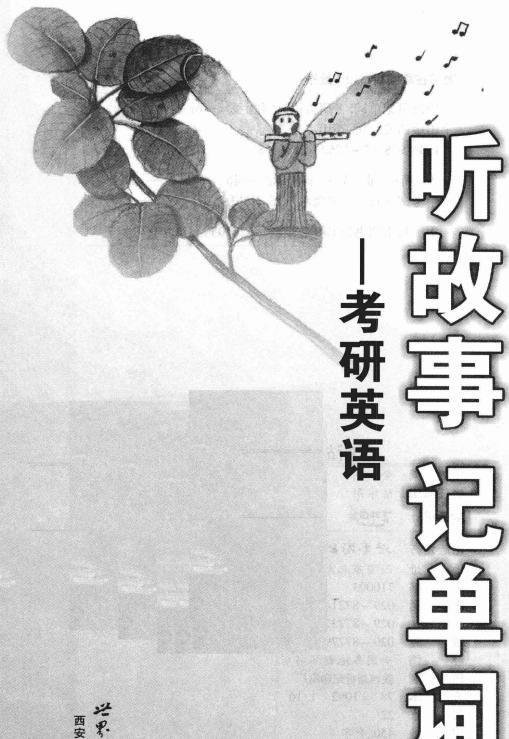
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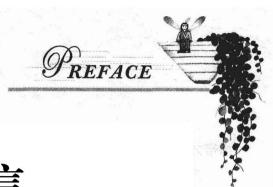
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前言

你是不是还在疑惑,为什么背过的英文单词用起来却一头雾水,为什么学习英语会因为背单词而变成了一件枯燥、乏味的事情?

众所周知,词汇是学习英语的基础,词汇量的大小以及词汇掌握的熟练程度在一定程度上决定了能否学好英语,顺利通过考试。很多考生试图通过阅读来背单词,但是可供阅读的英文篇章可谓数不胜数,要想找到一些能够囊括考试大纲词汇的篇章,真是难上加难!看着单词书上密密麻麻的单词,考生的眼睛也难免会感到疲劳。不难看出,考生所需要的是一本实用有趣的单词书。鉴于此,我们希望通过"听故事记单词"这种形式帮助考生找到学习英语的乐趣,提高大家记忆单词的效率。因此,我们为大家打造了一套开启记忆之门的单词书——《听故事,记单词》。

本书为考生精选了难度适宜的故事,通过这些幽默有趣的小故事,考 生可以掌握考试大纲所要求的考研核心词汇,让考生在快乐中轻轻松松攻 克词汇难关,顺利通过考试。

解放眼睛,打通耳朵

看书久了眼睛会又疼又涩,这应该是大部分考生在备考阶段都会遇到的问题吧,其实这是眼睛在抗议:"为什么一直使用我,而不去用别的器官呢?"确实如此,视觉疲劳会大大降低考生记忆单词的效率。可是不看书又不行,那要怎样记忆单词呢?有心理学家指出过,人的记忆25%来源于视觉,15%来源于听觉,两者结合则可以达到65%的效果。看来,耳朵是可以帮助眼睛一起记忆单词的,就让我们听听故事,解放一下眼睛,练练耳朵,走到哪里听到哪里,不让时间在等待中白白溜走。记忆单词之余,还可以练习听力,可谓一举两得!

携带方便,边走边记

在打通耳朵之余,你是不是也在为上学路上、公交车上、地铁里的无聊时光而苦恼呢?在互联网日益发达的今天,你还泡在自习室、图书馆里背单词记例句吗?本书搭配的电子书既为你解决了上述的苦恼,也节省了学习时间。在生活的间隙中,看完故事,背完单词,轻轻松松去考研。

故事有趣,难度适宜

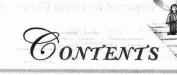
本书中所选故事以实用有趣为原则,给读者营造轻松愉快的学习氛围。故事阅读难度适宜,译文权威地道,精确优美,全面涵盖考研大纲核心词汇,让考生在听故事的过程中就将单词轻松拿下,实现了听、读结合,词汇、阅读、听说三位一体,英语各个方面的水平同步提高。另外,本书在每个故事之后附上"大纲拾遗",将大纲中的其他单词为考生列出,以方便全面复习。

词汇注解,阅读双赢

本书对每一篇选文中的生词、重点词汇进行详尽说明,让考生在阅读和听故事的过程中学习和记忆单词,最终做到一册在手,阅读理解能力和词汇量共同提高。同时,在每篇故事前面都设有一个"短语热身"的环节,列出故事中出现的一些常见搭配,帮助考生做好预习,也可在听故事的过程中加深印象,将所讲单词和实用短语全部吸收。

还等什么呢,就让我们一起拿上MP3,听故事、记单词,轻轻松松突破考研词汇大关吧!

编者 2010年5月



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set foot on 落脚 count on 依靠;期待,指望 lean against 靠在,倚在;依靠;对……施加压力 a pile of (较整齐的) 一堆,一叠; (口) 一大堆,大量 at the bottom of 在……末尾,最底下的部分

A Beautiful Love Story

A long time ago, before the world was **created** and human **set foot on** it, God had put all the human "qualities" in a separate room. Since all the qualities were bored they decided to play hide & seek.

"Madness" was one of the qualities and he shouted: "I want to **count**, I want to count!" And since nobody was crazy enough to want to seek "Madness", all the other qualities agreed. So "Madness" **leaned against** a tree and started to count:

"One, two, three..."As "Madness" counted, the qualities went hiding. "Treason" hid in a pile of garbage. "Lie" said that it would hide under a stone, but hid at the bottom of the lake. And Madness continued to count: "...seventy nine, eighty, eighty one..." By this time, all the qualities were already hidden — except "Love".

For stupid as "Love" is, he could not decide where to hide. And this should not surprise us, because we all know how difficult it is to hide "Love".

"Madness": "...ninety five, ninety six, ninety seven..." Just when "Madness" got to one hundred, "Love" **jumped into** a rose bush where he hid.

And Madness turned around and shouted: "I'm coming, I'm coming! " As Madness turned around, "Laziness" was the first to be found, because "Laziness" was too lazy to hide. "Madness" searched madly and found "Lie" at the bottom of the lake. One by one, Madness found them all — except Love. "Madness" was getting desperate, unable to find Love.

Envious of Love, "**Envy**" whispered to "Madness": "You only need to find Love, and Love is hiding in the rose bush."

"Madness" jumped on the rose bush and he heard loud cry. The **thorns** in the bush had **pierced** "Love's" eyes.

Hearing the **commotion**, God came into the room and saw what had happened. He got very angry and cursed "Madness" and said: "since 'Love' has become blind because of you. You shall always be with him."

And so it came about that from that day on, "Love" is blind and is always accompanied by "Madness"!



故事烙印

⇒ create [krix'eit] v. 创造,创作;引起,造成,建立

The industry on the horizon creates many job opportunities for the local citizens. 这个新兴产业为当地居民创造了很多就业机会。 creation(n. 创造,创作物); creationism(n. 神创论)

⇒ set foot on 落脚

Chinese real estate companies have set feet on the global market. 中国房地产商已向国际市场进军。

- → quality ['kwɔləti] n. 质量,品质,特性
 One of the most important qualities of a good employee is executive ability. 一名好员工最重要的品质之一是要具备执行能力。
- ⇒ hide & seek n. 捉迷藏(游戏);(喻)捉迷藏 v. 捉迷藏
- ⇒ count [kaunt] v. 数,计算;算入;看做,认为 n. 计数,计算,总数 count on 依靠,期待; count up 把……相加; count for 重要或有价值 You may get away with the trouble, but don't count on it. 你可能会蒙混过关,但是别指望这样。
- lean against 靠在,倚在;依靠;对……施加压力
 Mary is leaning against on the wall and reviewing the matter. 玛丽正靠在墙上回想那件事。
- → treason ['tri:zən] n. 谋反,通敌,叛国

 James has been sentenced to ten years for treason. 詹姆斯因犯谋反罪被判了10年。
- ⇒ a pile of (较整齐的)一堆,一叠;(口)一大堆,大量 The editor received a pile of letters from readers. 编辑收到了大量的读者来信。
- → garbage ['gq:bid3] n. 垃圾

 The candidate talked about a lot of garbage during the election. 这位候选人在选举过程中说了很多废话。
- at the bottom of 在……末尾,最底下的部分
 Diamond was discovered at the bottom of the box. 盒子的最底下有钻石。
- except [ik'sept] prep. 除……之外 except for 除……之外

The travelers felt excited on the top of the hill except for being a little cold. 除了有点儿冷之外,这些游客在山顶上非常激动。

⇒ jump into 跳进;一下子进入;欣然参加;投入
The several computer companies jumped into the chip industry together. 这几家计算机公司一下子都投身于芯片工业。

⇒ turn around 闪开,让开;转过脸

My business partner just turned around and said that it was all my fault. 我的生意伙伴急忙脱身说这全都是我的错误。

⇒ envious ['enviəs] a. 妒忌的;羡慕的

Do not be *envious* of your classmates who got higher score. 不要嫉妒那些得了高分的同学。

→ envy ['envi] v./n. 美慕,忌妒 envy sb. sth. 羡慕某人……..嫉妒某人的……

The young lady lives a good life which everyone envies. 这位年轻的女士过着一种人人羡慕的美好生活。

⇒thorn [θo:n] n. 刺,荆棘

Henry has been a thorn in the eyes of his boss. 亨利已经成为他老板的眼中钉。

⇒ pierce [piəs] v. 刺穿,刺破

A harsh voice pierced the tranquility of the small village. 刺耳的声音打破了这个小乡村的宁静。

piercing(a. 刺骨的;刺穿的)

- commotion [kəˈməuʃən] n. 混乱;喧闹;骚动;政治动乱;激动 The whole city was in commotion after the great revolution. 大革命之后整个城市陷入了一片混乱。
- ⇒ accompany [ə'kʌmpəni] v. 陪同,伴随;为……伴奏
 My father has accompanied me on the trip to China. 爸爸陪我来到中国旅行。

大纲拾遗 ※

abide [ə'baid] vi. 坚持,遵守

abide by 恪守,服从,坚持,遵守

abolish [ə¹bɔliʃ] vt. 废除,取消

abreast [ə'brest] ad. 并肩地,并排地

keep abreast of 跟上,保持并列

absorb [əb'səːb,əb'zəːb] vt. 吸收;吸引,使专心

be absorbed in 专心于

abstract ['æbstrækt,æb'strækt] adj. 抽象的;n. 提(抽)取;摘要

an abstract concept 抽象概念; make an abstract of 做……的摘要

abundant [ə'bʌndənt] a. 丰富的,充分的

have abundant energy 精力旺盛; abundant in富于

accelerate [ək'seləreit] vt. 加快,促进

accordance [əˈkɔːdns] n. 一致

in accordance with 与……一致,依照,按照,根据



accordingly [ə'kəːdinli] ad. 相应地,照着(办);因此 accuracy ['ækjurəsi] n. 准确,准确度 accurate ['ækjurət] a. 精确的,准确的 be accurate in 在……方面很精确

accuse [əˈkjuːz] v. 控告,谴责

be accused of 被控犯有……罪

accustomed [əˈkʌstəmd] a. 惯常的,习惯的

be accustomed to 习惯于

achieve [ə't∫iːv]ν. 完成;达到,达成,获得

achieve the objective 达到目标

acid ['æsid] n. 酸 a. 酸的;尖酸的

sulfuric acid 硫酸; an acid tone of voice 尖酸的声调

acknowledge [ək'nɔlidʒ] vt. 承认;致谢,报偿

acquaint [ə'kweint] vt. 使认识,使了解

acquaint sb./oneself with 使认识,使了解,使熟悉



美丽的爱情故事

很久以前,在上帝创造(create)世界、人类来到世上(set foot on)之前,上帝将所有人类的"品质" (quality)放在一间独立的房间里。品质们无所事事,于是决定玩捉迷藏(hide & seek)的游戏。

品质之一"疯狂"大喊:"我来数数(count),我来数数!"没人糊涂得想要去找"疯狂",因此其他品质都同意了。于是"疯狂"斜靠(lean against)在树上开始计数:

"1,2,3……""疯狂"数数时,品质们四散躲藏。"背叛(treason)"藏在一堆(a pile of)垃圾 (garbage)中。"谎言"说自己会藏在一块石头下,但却藏到了湖底(at the bottom of)。"疯狂"继续数数"……79、80、81……"这时,所有品质都已经藏好了——除了(except)"爱情"。

因为"爱情"很愚蠢,他决定不了藏在哪儿。这并不足为奇,因为我们都知道掩藏"爱情"是多么闲难。

"疯狂"仍在数着: "……95、96、97……"正当"疯狂"数到 100 时, "爱情"跳进(jump into)玫瑰丛中藏了起来。

"疯狂"转过身(turn around)来大喊:"我来了,我来了!""疯狂"转身时,第一个发现的是"懒惰",因为"懒惰"太懒了,懒得藏起来。"疯狂"拼命搜寻,在湖底找到了"谎言"。"疯狂"一个接一个地找到了所有品质——除了"爱情"。"疯狂"无法找到"爱情",几近绝望。

"嫉妒(envy)"妒忌(envious)"爱情",便小声对"疯狂"说:"你只需要找到'爱情'了,'爱情'就藏在玫瑰丛里。"

"疯狂"跳进玫瑰丛里,听见大声的哭泣。丛里的刺(thorn)戳穿(pierced)了"爱情"的眼睛。

上帝听见一片喧闹(commotion),进屋看发生何事。他非常生气,诅咒"疯狂",说:既然'爱情'因你而被刺瞎了双眼,你将永远陪伴着他。"

于是从那天开始,"爱情"便是盲目的,并总有"疯狂"伴(accompany)其左右。

get wind of 听到……的风声;获悉有关……的消息 protest against 抗议, 反对 arise from 从……中产生,由……引起

The Professor Bites Back

Annoyed by the professor of anatomy who liked to tell "naughty" stories during class, a group of female students decided that the next time he started to tell one, they would all rise and leave the room in protest.

The professor, however, **got wind of** their **scheme** just before class the following day, so he **bided** his time. Then, **halfway** through the lecture, he began. "They say there is quite a **shortage** of **prostitutes** in France."

The girls looked at one another, arose and started for the door.

"Young ladies," said the professor with a **broad** smile, "the next plane doesn't leave till tomorrow afternoon."

故事烙印 ※

- → annoy [ə'nɔi] ν. 使恼怒,使生气,打搅
 Everyone finds it annoying when you speak loudly in elevator. 在电梯里大声说话会让每个人都感到懊恼。
 annoving(a. 恼人的,讨厌的)
- ⇒ anatomy [ə'nætəmi] n. 解剖学,解剖构造
 The biologist found out a great deal about the anatomy of animals. 在动物解剖学方面,这位生物学家有过许多发现。
- → naughty ['no:ti] a. 顽皮的,淘气的;猥亵的

 We must use some stricter methods to deal with the naughty boys. 我们应该使用一些更严厉的方式来对付这些调皮的男孩子。
- → female ['fiːmeil] a. 女的, 雌的
 Secretary is regarded as a female occupation. 秘书被看做是一种女性职业。
- → protest [prəu'test, 'prəutest] v./n. 抗议,反对 protest against 抗议,反对; an official protest 正式抗议 Crowds of demonstrators gathered in the square to protest against the building of new airport. 成群的游行者聚集在广场上抗议修建新机场。
- ⇒ get wind of 听到……的风声;获悉有关……的消息
 Susan has gotten wind of the new project to restore the district. 苏珊听到重建这个街区的风声。



- ⇒ scheme [skixm] n. 计划,方案;阴谋;配置;安排 v. 计划,策划;阴谋
 The young woman schemed to elope with her lover. 这个年轻女人计划和她情人私奔。
- → following ['fɔləuin] a. 接着的,下列的
 The headmaster plans to launch the new course in the following month. 校长计划在下个月开新课程。
- ⇒ bide [baid] v. 停留,等待;继续;居住
 The couple are biding their time till another opportunity comes to them. 这对夫妇正在等待着下一次机会的到来。
- ⇒ halfway ['ho:f'wei] ad. 在中途,半路上;到一半;几乎,大致 David filled the glass halfway with beer. 大卫在杯子里倒了半杯啤酒。
- ⇒ shortage ['fɔxtidʒ] n. 不足,缺少

 It's urgent that there be a shortage of salt in this country. 该国缺少盐这个问题
 很紧迫。
- prostitute ['prostit just] n. 妓女,娼妓;出卖节操者

 Prostitutes usually drifts along the path to looking for customers. 妓女经常游荡在这条小径上寻找客人。
- → arise [əˈraiz] v. 出现,发生;由……引起,由……产生 arise from 从……中产生,由……引起 We should begin the conference from the problems arising from the traffic accident. 我们这次会议应该从上次交通事故引起的问题说起。
- ⇒ broad [broːd] a. 宽的,广阔的;广大的,广泛的;宽宏的,豁达的
 The college students have a broad range of subjects. 大学生要学的课程范围很广。

大纲拾遗 ※

acquire [əˈkwaiə(r)] vt. 取得,获得;学到 acquire a habit 养成一种习惯

acquisition [ˌækwiˈziʃən] n. 获得;获得物

acquisition of 获得……; merger and acquisition 合并与兼并

activate ['æktiveit] vt. 使活动,启动,激活

acute [əˈkjuxt] a. 敏锐的,尖锐的;(疾病)急性的

an acute observer 敏感的观察家; acute pain 剧痛

adapt [ə'dæpt] v. (使)适应 vt. 改编,改写

adapt to sth./doing sth. 适应某事/做某事;adapt...for 改编,改写

addict [ə'dikt] vt. 使成瘾;使入迷 n. 有瘾的人;入迷的人

drug addict 瘾君子; addicted oneself to 上瘾,沉迷

adequate ['ædikwət] a. 足够的,充分的,恰当的 be adequate for 适合于……

adjoin [əˈdʒɔin] v. 毗连,靠近

adjoining [ə'dʒɔiniŋ] a. 邻接的,隔壁的

adjust [ə'dʒʌst] vt. 调节,调整;校正 vi. 调整,适应 adjust a policy 调整政策; adjust expenses to income 量入为出

administration [ədˌmini'streifən]管理,经营,支配;管理部门,行政机关;实行

public administration 公共管理

adolescent [iædəu'lesənt] n. 青少年 a. 青春期的,青少年的
adolescent period 青春期

adopt [ə'dəpt] vt. 采用,采纳;通过;收养

adopt a policy 采取政策; adopt a new technique 采用新技术

advance [əd'vɑːns,əd'væns] v. 前进,进展;推进,促进;提出(建议等);提前 n. 前进,进展;预付,预支

in advance 提前,预先

advantage [əd'vɑːntidʒ,əd'væntidʒ] n. 优点,长处,有利条件;利益,好处 ν. 有利于;有益于

take advantage of 利用; gain/have an advantage over 胜过,优于

advertise ['ædvətaiz] v. 做广告

advice [əd'vais] n. 劝告,忠告,建议;(医生等的)意见 write to sb. for advice 写信给某人征求建议



教授的报复

一些女 (female) 学生深受解剖学 (anatomy) 教授在课堂上讲下流 (naughty) 笑话这种骚扰 (annoy), 所以她们决定如果下次他再这样,她们就集体起身离开教室,以此向他表示抗议 (protest)。

然而,第二天上课之前,教授就她们计划 (scheme) 得到风声,知道了,于是他等待 (bide) 着时机。在他讲课进行到一半 (halfway) 时,他开始了:"他们说法国现在妓女 (prostitute) 匮乏 (shortage)。"

姑娘们互相看看,站起来 (arise) 向门口走去。

"姑娘们,"教授露出宽容的微笑说,"下一班去法国的飞机明天下午才会起飞。"



sweep in/into 以明显多数票上台执政 set about in reply to 答复,作为……的答复 feel downo wonder 难怪,怪不得

set about 开始,着手 feel down 感到悲伤,情绪低落

Who Has the Handicap?

I'm learning each and everyday, from a young man who can hardly speak. He teaches me something new each day, as I watch him **mop** and **sweep**.

His **staggered** gate doesn't stop him, from walking to work each day. And every time I talk to him, he has a smile and a nice word to say.

As he **struggles** to open the **liner**, to empty the **trash** each night, I am reminded of how much he has, **visioned** cleared with true **insight**.

He has no degrees or education, but he is wiser than most I've met. And tonight I saw him **setting** alone, head bowed — he seemed upset.

"What's wrong Brandon?" I asked. He **replied**, "Nothing is wrong with me. I feel bad for a kid I saw, he's little and can't even see!"

So when I think I have it bad, **feeling down** and emotionally flat I think of Brandon and start to **wonder**, ... "Who has the **handicap**?"

故事烙印 ***

- → mop [mop] n. 拖把;拖把状物 v. 用拖把拖洗;擦去……上的汗水 The old farmer mopped the sweat and went on plowing his fields. 老农擦去汗水继续犁地。
- ⇒ sweep [swiɪp] v. 扫,打扫;席卷,冲光;扫过,掠过;迅速蔓延,迅速传播 sweep in/into 以明显多数票上台执政

A recession swept over the whole tourism industry. 一场经济衰退席卷整个旅游业。

- ⇒ staggered ['stægəd] a. 蹒跚的

 John was totally staggered when he saw the bloody scene. 约翰看见这种血腥的
 场面后已经完全站不稳了。
- ⇒ struggle ['strʌgl] n./v. 斗争,奋斗,努力
 The boy and his little sister struggled to survive the earthquake. 这个男孩和他的小妹妹努力地在地震中活了下来。
- liner ['lainə(r)] n. 班机,班轮

 It's reported that the *liner* has been in collision with an oil tanker. 据报道, 这艘 客轮与一艘油轮相撞。

- ⇒ trash [træf] n. 废物,垃圾;抽劣的文学(或艺术)作品
 The cleaner takes out the trash at a fixed time everyday. 保洁员每天在固定的时间清理垃圾。
- ⇒ vision ['viʒən] n. 视觉,视力;眼力,想象力
 The manager has a clear vision of which is the right direction of the company in the future. 这位经理很清楚地知道这个公司未来正确的发展方向。
- ⇒ insight ['insait] n. 洞察力,见识
 The teacher helps his students gain insight into the mistakes. 这位老师帮助学生认识错误。
- ⇒ set [set] n. (一)套,(一)批;机组,接收机 v. 放,安置;树立,创造;校正 set about 开始,着手; set back 推迟,阻碍; set forth 阐明,陈述; set off 出发,引起; set out 陈列;动身;制定

The team leaders have set about making the final decisions for the new plan. 这些小组领导已着手为这个新计划做最后决定了。

- □ reply [ri'plai] v./n. 回答,答复,以……作答 in reply to 答复,作为……的答复; reply to 答复,以……作答 I asked my brother for help, but he replied that he was not in the city. 我向哥哥寻求帮助,但是他却回复说他不在这个城市。
- ⇒ feel down 感到悲伤,情绪低落

When bad news just comes one after another, no matter how optimistic a person is, he would *feel down* as well. 坏消息接踵而来,不管多么乐观的人也会觉得沮丧。

- → wonder ['wʌndə(r)] n. 惊奇,惊异;奇迹,奇事ν. 诧异,奇怪;纳闷,想知道 no wonder 难怪,怪不得
 - Sherry was wondering if her mother would like to live with her. 雪莉想知道她的妈妈是否愿意和她一起住。
- ⇒ handicap ['hændikæp] v. 妨碍,使不利 n. (身体或智力方面的)缺陷;障碍,不利条件

Not having professional knowledge is a real handicap for some translators. 对于一些译者来说,缺少专业知识是真正的障碍。

大纲拾遗 ***

advisable [əd'vaizəbl] n. 可取的;适当的advise [əd'vaiz] v. 劝告,忠告;建议;通知

advise sb. to do 建议……做

advocate ['ædvəkeit] vt. 提倡,鼓吹;提倡者,鼓吹者,支持者 affect [ə'fekt] vt. 影响;感动,感染

affectionate [ə'fekʃənət] a. 亲爱的,挚爱的

affiliate [ə'filieit] v. (使)隶属(或附属)于 n. 附属机构,分公司 affiliate to 附属于

agency ['eidʒənsi] n. 代理(处),代办处

Xinhua News Agency 新华社; an employment agency 职业介绍所

agenda [əˈdʒendə] n. 议事日程

agent ['eidʒənt] n. 代理商(人),代表

agent bank 代理银行

aggravate ['ægrəveit] vt. 恶化,加重,加剧

aggravate poverty 加重贫困

aggressive [ə'gresiv] a. 侵略的,好斗的;有进取心的;积极的;强有力的 aggressive weapon 攻击性武器

agitate ['ædʒiteit] vi. 鼓动 vi. 使激动,使不安;搅动;搅拌

agitate against 反对; agitate for 鼓动

agreement [ə'gri:mənt] n. 同意,一致;协定,协议

reach an agreement 达成一致; in agreement with 同意……

akin [əˈkin] a. 类似的

akin to sth. 与……类似的 akin为正式用语

alien ['eiljən] n. 外侨;外星人 a. 不相容的;外国的;相异的

be alien to 与……不相容,与……相反,与……不相符;alien from 相异;alien culture 异族文化

alphabetism ['ælfəbitizm] n. 按字母表顺序

alter ['oːltə(r)] v. 改变,变更



谁有残疾?

我每一天都从一个几乎无法说话的年轻人那里学到东西。我望着他拖地 (mop) 清扫 (sweep),每天他都教给我一些新的东西。

他蹒跚的 (staggered) 动作没有阻止他每天步行去工作。每次我跟他交谈时,他总是面带微笑,言辞友善。

每晚,当他费力地打开垃圾袋,清空垃圾 (trash) 的时候,这总会让我想起他所拥有的一切,充满真知灼见的远见洞察 (insight)。

他没有学位,也没受过教育,但却比我见过的大多数人都要明智。今晚,我见他独自坐着, 低着头——看上去有些沮丧。

"布兰登,你怎么啦?"我问他。他回答 (reply) 说,我自己倒没什么。"我为我看到的一个孩子难过,他还那么小,就失明了!"

所以,当我认为自己遭遇不顺,当我情绪消沉或感情低落 (feel down) 时,我便会想起布兰登,开始思考 (wonder),……"究竟是谁有残疾 (handicap)?"